

CALIFORNIA DROUGHT UPDATE

NOVEMBER 14, 2022

Current Conditions

- The state's new water year began October 1, and with it came fresh concerns about a fourth year of extreme drought. The three-year period from 2020 to 2022 is now the driest on record going back to 1896.
- Despite some rain and mountain snowfall recorded in early November, uncertainty remains about what the new water year may bring. Long-range forecasting suggests warmer and drier-than-average conditions to persist.
- To replace and replenish the water that thirstier soils, vegetation, and the atmosphere will consume under hotter and drier conditions, Governor Newsom announced "[California's Water Supply Strategy, Adapting to a Hotter, Drier Future](#)" with actions to recycle, de-salt and conserve more water and expand water storage capacity.
- All of California's 58 counties are under a drought emergency proclamation. Californians are being asked to reduce their water use by 15 percent over 2020 levels to protect water reserves and help maintain critical flows for fish and wildlife wherever possible.
- As of November 14, the state's [voluntary household dry well reporting system](#) received reports of 86 dry wells in the past 30 days. Most are in Fresno and Madera counties.

The California Drought Update is a weekly roundup of conditions, state actions and upcoming developments. It is produced by an interagency team that includes the California Natural Resources Agency, the California Environmental Protection Agency, the Governor's Office of Emergency Services, the California Department of Food and Agriculture, the Department of Water Resources, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Public Health. For the latest on drought, please visit <https://drought.ca.gov>. For tips and resources for conserving water, please visit www.saveourwater.com.

Recent Events and State Actions

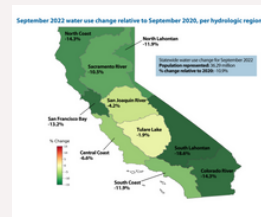
DWR awards \$5 Million for Delta communities to improve flood

emergency response (Nov. 16): The Department of Water Resources (DWR) awarded \$5 million in funding for seven emergency response agencies within the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to increase their ability to respond to flood emergencies. This funding will help to improve the emergency response efforts for first responders and help these communities prepare for threats of flooding in the Delta, which is increasingly vulnerable due to storm events and sea level rise.



Drought experts brief Water Commission (Nov. 16): As part of its ongoing work to offer strategies for protecting fish and wildlife and communities in the event of a drought lasting six years or longer, the Water Commission heard from a panel of drought experts that included UC Davis engineering professor Jay Lund, attorney Justine Massey of the Community Water Center, and Melissa Rohde, a scientist with The Nature Conservancy.

Urban conservation rates for September 2022 (Nov. 15): The State Water Board reported that urban statewide water use in September 2022 dropped by 10.9% relative to Sept. 2020. In fact, all hydrologic regions in California saw drops compared to 2020.



Curtailments adjustments (ongoing): The State Water Board continues to monitor six critical watersheds where worsening conditions may threaten water supplies. Curtailments remain in effect in the Delta watershed, the Scott River and Shasta River watersheds, Mill Creek and Deer Creek watersheds (sub-watersheds of the Delta). As of **Nov. 5**, curtailments have been lifted in the Russian River watershed. Board staff will continue to adjust curtailment orders as conditions change. Water rights holders should closely monitor their email and the watershed drought webpages for curtailment updates.



Tribal / Local Actions

- **Tribal governments:** Tribal emergency drought proclamations as reported by Cal OES to date: Buena Vista Rancheria of Me-Wuk Indians, Karuk Tribe, Resighini Rancheria, Tule River Indian Tribe, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation, Yurok Tribe, Wiyot Tribe.
- **Local government:** Local emergency drought proclamations as reported by Cal OES to date: Butte, Colusa, Fresno, Glenn, Humboldt, Lake, Madera, Marin, Mendocino, Modoc, Napa, Nevada, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo.

Upcoming Decisions / Milestones

Coastal Commission considers Monterey County desalination plant: The Coastal Commission will consider an application from the California American Water Company (Cal-Am) at its meeting **Nov. 16-18** to operate an ocean water desalination plant in Monterey County that could produce up to 6.4 million gallons per day to serve communities of the Monterey Peninsula and help replace unauthorized diversions from the Carmel River.

Key Data Points and Resources

- Daily Hydrological & Climate Information summary: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=DLYHYDRO>
- Statewide water conditions: http://cdec.water.ca.gov/water_cond.html
- Daily Reservoir Storage Summary: <https://cdec.water.ca.gov/reservoir.html>
- Water Year Forecast and Monthly Distribution: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/reportapp/javareports?name=B120DIST>
- Monthly water supplier reports on water production and conservation: https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/conservation_portal/conservation_reporting.html
- Latest groundwater conditions and information: <https://sgma.water.ca.gov/CalGWLIVE/>
- Information on state drought actions and assistance: <https://drought.ca.gov/>
- Conservation tips and resources for consumers: <https://saveourwater.com/>